

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: LEGISLATIVE & RULES

DATE: NOVEMBER 5, 2015

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS MONROE
SOKOL
WOOD
FRASIER
WESTCOTT
STROUGH

OTHERS PRESENT:

KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MARTIN AUFFREDOU, COUNTY ATTORNEY
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
FRANK E. THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER

SUPERVISORS BEATY

BROCK

DICKINSON

KENNY

MERLINO

MCDEVITT

SIMPSON

TAYLOR

THOM RANDALL, *ADIRONDACK JOURNAL*

DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*

SAMANTHA HOGAN, SENIOR LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

SUPERVISOR GIRARD

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the November 5, 2015 meeting of the Legislative & Rules Committee; the meeting in its entirety can be viewed on the Warren County website using the following link http://www.warrencountyny.gov/gov/comm/legislative_rules/

Mr. Monroe called the meeting of the Legislative & Rules Committee to order at 11:02 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Strough, seconded by Mr. Sokol and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Copies of the agenda packet were distributed to the Committee members; *a copy of the agenda packet is on file with the minutes.*

Commencing the agenda review, Mr. Monroe advised that Action Agenda Item No. 1 pertained to a request from Municipal Electric and Gas Alliance (MEGA) for a non-binding “expression of interest and support” for Community Choice Aggregation. Privilege of the floor was extended to Paul Dusek, *County Administrator*, who explained MEGA was the organization which supplied electrical and gas services to the Municipal Center. He further explained MEGA had written a letter to the Chairman of the Board seeking support of Community Choice Aggregation, which would allow residents to potentially gain the same type of savings the County received for their electrical utilities by grouping together to gain better rates. Mr. Dusek read aloud portions of the information provided by MEGA, a copy of which was included in the agenda packet and can be found on file with the meeting minutes. He advised he had spoken with Ron Feldstein, *President and CEO of MEGA*, who affirmed that the Chairman did not need to sign the example letter they had provided and could instead choose to return a letter of support which included the verbiage of their choosing. Mr. Dusek indicated MEGA was awaiting permission from the New York State Public Safety Commission on this matter, which they anticipated would be ruled upon in the near future.

Mr. Strough noted the Town of Queensbury had received a similar request and would be forwarding their letter of support; he added that he was supportive of the County taking similar action in favor of this effort. Ms. Wood commented the Town of Thurman had also forwarded a letter of support.

Motion was made by Mr. Strough, seconded by Ms. Wood and carried unanimously to authorize the Chairman of the Board to send a non-binding expression of interest and support for Community Choice Aggregation to MEGA, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the November 20th Board Meeting.

Proceeding to Action Agenda Item 2, Mr. Monroe introduced discussion on Assembly Bill A.8399, "*An Act to Amend Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law, the Vehicle and Traffic Law and the State Finance Law, in relation to the creation of an ATV trail fund*", a copy of which was included in the agenda packet and can be found on file with the meeting minutes. He provided an overview of the Bill, following which it was the consensus of the Committee to revisit the item at their next meeting in order to allow the Committee members more time to review and consider the Bill before taking action.

Next, Mr. Monroe reviewed the Pending Items section of the agenda, as follows:

1. Legislation forwarded by Rockland County pertaining to regulating the use of drones.

Martin Auffredou, *County Attorney*, indicated that Ross Dubarry, *Airport Manager*, was unable to attend the meeting but had sent a memo with some additional concerns. Mr. Auffredou advised that Senator Schumer was pushing for tracking of drones and prohibiting entrance into certain airspace and he noted that they had received proposed rules and regulations relating to drones from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). He said Mr. Dubarry had suggested having registration and fee requirements for business users and public entities to assist in enforcement actions and educational purposes as Mr. Dubarry had indicated a need for public education on the matter. Mr. Auffredou opined that in light of ongoing efforts of Senator Schumer and the FAA, it might be better for Warren County to await the outcome of this activity before taking any action; he added that the Committee could subsequently take action to address any additional issues specific to Warren County. As the Committee was in agreement, it was determined this item would remain tabled until more information was received regarding prospective regulatory legislation.

2. Discussion on the proposed increase in minimum wage for fast food workers.

No discussion was held on this item as the Committee was not prepared to take a position on the matter.

3. Discussion regarding the SAFE (*Secure Ammunition and Firearms Enforcement*) Act provision which has prevented hunting in Pack Forest because it was part of a State school.

Chairman Geraghty stated this matter had been brought to his attention by a resident who indicated hunting had always been allowed in Pack Forest, using a safety zone for those visiting the property for alternate uses; however, he said, such use had since been prohibited in coordination with the SAFE Act and many local residents were concerned about this change. Mr. Strough remarked he had visited the property many times with groups of children and was hesitant to encourage such mixed use due to safety concerns; however, he added, if there was a way to designate areas for hunting at a safe distance from hiking areas, as Chairman Geraghty had described, he would be supportive. Chairman Geraghty stated he believed these types of separations had always been enlisted in the past and that the prohibitions in use designations had only occurred due to changes brought about by the SAFE Act.

Following further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Westcott, seconded by Ms. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve a resolution encouraging the State Legislature to consider an amendment to the SAFE Act allowing restoration of hunting on State campuses where hunting grounds could be safely separated from recreational areas, to be presented at the November 20th Board Meeting.

Chairman Geraghty noted he had received a letter from Pucker Ridge Farms, located in the Town of Warrensburg, where they raised racehorses which stated they were struggling and were looking into

the option of State funding for agricultural zones in Warren County. Ms. Wood suggested contacting Cornell Cooperative Extension, as they had been discussing the use of Agricultural Districts. Mr. Monroe stated it may be beneficial to ask Dr. James Seeley, *Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension*, to attend the next Legislative & Rules Committee meeting to discuss this matter.

As there was no further business to come before the Legislative & Rules Committee, on motion made by Mr. Strough and seconded by Ms. Wood, Mr. Monroe adjourned the meeting at 11:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Samantha Hogan, Senior Legislative Office Specialist